



# PRESS NOTICE

## BILL NETTLES UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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**May 1, 2012**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **FEDERAL GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS**

**Columbia, South Carolina** ---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that a Federal Grand Jury in Columbia, South Carolina, returned Indictment(s) against the following:

**Irmo Woman Charged with Stealing nearly Twenty Thousand Dollars in Internet Auction Scheme.** ERIN ANNA PONDO, age 23, formerly of Irmo, South Carolina was charged in an eight-count Indictment with mail fraud in connection with a scheme to defraud bidders of \$19,596.75 through fictitious internet auctions, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341. The maximum penalty PONDO could receive is a fine of \$250,000 and imprisonment of twenty years. The case was investigated by agents of the United States Postal Service and the case is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney T. DeWayne Pearson of the Columbia office for

prosecution.

**Blackville Man Charged with Identity Theft.** Tristan A. Widener, age 23, was charged in a four-count Indictment in connection with a scheme to obtain fraudulent credit cards. Tristan A. Widener is charged with credit card fraud and mail fraud, violations of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1029(a)(2) and 1341, respectively. The maximum penalty for those charges are a fine of \$250,000 and imprisonment of thirty years.

Tristan A. Widener is also charged with aggravated identity theft, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1028A. The penalty for that charge is a two-year sentence that must be served consecutively to any other term of imprisonment. The case was investigated by agents of the United States Secret Service and the case is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney T. DeWayne Pearson of the Columbia office for prosecution.

**Rock Hill Man Charged with Failure to Register as a Sex Offender.** Antwain Price, age 38, of Rock Hill, was charged in a 1-count Indictment with Failure to Register as a Sex Offender, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2250(a). The maximum penalty Price could receive is 10 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000. The case was investigated by the United States Marshal Service and is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Dean Eichelberger of the Columbia office for prosecution.

The United States Attorney stated that all charges in these Indictments are merely accusations and that all defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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